

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07603 271804Z

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5776

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7603

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL MNUC GR US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NPW VISIT TO SOUDA BAY ANCHORAGE

REF: STATE 185024

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE DEPT'S ADVISING ME OF DOD/ISA'S APPROACH CONCERNING NAVY DESIRE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR TRAINING ANCHORAGE AT SOUDA BAY AUG 5-7 BY UNITS OF NPW TASK GROUP THAT RECENTLY ENTERED MEDITERRANEAN. WHILE WE CANNOT OF COURSE PREDICT WITH ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE WHAT GREEK REACTION WOULD BE-AND REACTION ITSELF COULD BE AFFECTED BY AEGEAN AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS-I BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD APPROVE REQUEST FOR TRAINING ANCHORAGE AT SOUDA UNDER CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN AVERAGING 10 TO 15 ANCHORAGES PER MONTH AT SOUDA, INCLUDING SHIPS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. THE CARRIER AMERICA WAS IN SOUDA IN BOTH JUNE AND JULY. IN APRIL THE GREEKS APPROVED VISIT OF THE NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE USS BERGALL (SNN 667), ALTHOUGH THE APPROVAL WAS LATER RESCINDED ALONG WITH THE APPROVAL FOR OTHER FLEET VISITS IN APRIL AS A RESULT OF GREEK PIQUE AT THE
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SIGNING OF THE US-TURKISH DCA.

2. I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT THE REQUEST FOR TRAINING ANCHORAGE BY UNITS OF NPW TASK GROUP BE HANDLED ROUTINELY. IF THE GREEK PERCEIVE SPECIAL PROBLEMS, THEY WILL NOT BE SLOW TO BRING THEM TO OUR ATTENTION.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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